

# **DELAWARE VALLEY MINORITY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT CONSORTIUM**

**2008-09  
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**



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In May 2004 the Penn Center for Educational Leadership in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania, in collaboration with the School District of Cheltenham Township, and in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, initiated a project for developing and sustaining a regional network of suburban school districts that would be committed to working together to enhance the achievement and well-being of all students.

In our work together over the past four years, we have continuously seek to measurably and appreciably reduce the disparities in achievement and educational engagement between African American and Hispanic students and their White and Asian peers both within and among our collective Consortium districts. Our energies have focused on addressing and changing district and school policies and practices that will know will positively enhance educational excellence and at the same time demonstrate more equitable educational outcomes for all students.

In our fifth year in we are a tri-state initiative that has affirmed the commitment and engagement of 27 regional school districts and three county intermediate units in southeastern Pennsylvania, southwestern New Jersey and northern Delaware that are willing to:

- acknowledge the nature of their achievement and opportunity to learn gaps,
- actively collaborate with other Consortium districts to discover, propose, and implement organizational and instructional strategies that will measurably close the gaps, and actively change school/district structures and practices that reinforce the gaps,
- develop annual plans to address local system-wide goals for closing the gaps, and share promising effective practices with one another

Our Consortium districts have been dedicated to supporting one another in collectively understanding at the big-picture district level reflecting on and responding to:

- the complex interaction of student-teacher instruction and personal relationships, students' home, school and community experiences,
- district/school/classroom structures and policies that support and/or inhibit increasing the number of students of color among the districts' "best and brightest," and
- how districts individually and collectively might begin to reduce their observed gaps.

## SEPTEMBER

23	Research and Data Task Force	9-11:30	ROOM 502	3440 Market
23	HS and MS Student Leadership Institute Planning Committee	Noon-3:00	ROOM 502	3440 Market
24	School Counselor-Pupil Services Task Force	Noon-3:00	ROOM 502	3440 Market
25	Recruitment and Retention Task Force	9-11:30	ROOM 502	3440 Market
25	Family-Community-School Partnership Task Force	Noon-3:00	ROOM 502	3440 Market

## OCTOBER

16 & 17	CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP SEMINAR	8:30-2:30	Conf Center	3440 Market
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*“Effectively Addressing the Disproportionate Representation of Our Students of Color in Special Education-Part 1”*



Dr. Eddie Fergus, Director of Research and Evaluation and Project Director for the Technical Assistance Center on Disproportionality  
Metro Center for Urban Education Steinhardt School of Education  
New York University  
New York, NY

21	ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY SCHOOL DISTRICT VISITATION (REGISTER ONLY THROUGH DR.JARVIS)			
23	SCHOOL BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT SEMINAR/WORKSHOP	6:00-8:30pm	Conf Center	3440 Market

*“Mobilizing the Community to Help Students Succeed”*



Hugh Price, Visiting Professor of Public and International Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs,  
Princeton University, and Former President of the Urban League, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institute

24      **CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP SEMINAR**      8:30-Noon      Conf Center      3440 Market

*“Mobilizing the Community to Help Students Succeed”*



Hugh Price, Visiting Professor of Public and International Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, and Former President of the Urban League, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institute

27      **SUPERINTENDENTS STEERING COMMITTEE**      Noon-3:00      ROOM 501      3440 Market

## NOVEMBER

12      **FALL CONFERENCE**

*“Keeping Our Eye On The Dream”*

8:30-3:00

University City Sheraton Hotel



Keynote: *“In Search Of The Dream: Schools And Classrooms That Work For High Potential Students From Diverse Cultural Backgrounds”*  
Dr. Donna Ford, Professor of Special Education and Co-Director of the Vanderbilt Closing the Achievement Gap Project  
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Presenters:

- Dr. Donna Ford, Vanderbilt University, Full Day Workshop, “Facilitating Culturally Responsive Classrooms and Schools”
- Dr. Kelley Kenney and Mark Kenney, Kutztown University- “Addressing the Unique Developmental Needs of Our Multiracial Students”
- Kristin Ward and Michelle Nash, Springfield Township School District, “Empowering Students To Achieve Success: The Springfield Township High School Academic Seminar”
- Barbara Spencer Dunn, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, “Teaching the Truth: Strengthening African American Student Success and Promoting Racial Understanding Among All Ethnic Groups”
- Scott Weinstein, Anne Spector, Dr. Jill Clark, Cheltenham School District, “Accessing Our Students’ Voices: Moving From Students To Student Leaders”
- Ken Kelman and Morrisville High School Student Leaders, “We May Not Be Who You Think We Are”

13

**FALL CONFERENCE**  
**"Keeping Our Eye On The Dream"**

8:30-3:00

University City Sheraton Hotel



Keynote: *"Racial Politics And The Elusive Quest For Excellence And Equity In Education"*

Dr. Pedro Noguera, Professor of Teaching And Learning

Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development And Executive Director, Metropolitan Center for Urban Education

Co-Director of the Institute for the Study of Globalization and Education in Metropolitan Settings (IGEMS)

Steinhardt School of Education

New York University

New York, NY

Presenters:

- Jamie Virga and District Administrator Team, Montgomery County Maryland Public Schools, Full Day Workshop, "Raising Achievement and Narrowing The Gaps in Montgomery County, MD"
- Dr. Pedro Noguera, New York University, "A Continuing Dialog"
- Dr. Bonnie Botel-Sheppard, Dr. Mort Botel, and Lisa Chavenson, Penn Literacy Network, "Academic Fitness for All Students: A Parent and Tutor Workshop Program (Grades K-4)"
- Dr. Michael Nakkula, PennGSE, "From Prevention To 'Invention': Promoting Optimal Development For All Students"
- Dr. Elliot Seif, Dennis Barnebey and School Principals- "What Works? A Look At Seven District of Philadelphia Elementary Schools That Beat the Odds"
- Allison Michael and Carolyn Michael, PennGSE and East Harlem NY School, "Reflection Into Action: Next Steps for White Educators"
- Dr. Michael Nakkula, PennGSE, "Adolescent Development For Educators: Using Contemporary Multicultural Research To Inform Professional Development for Teachers And School Administrators"
- Dr. Bonnie Botel-Sheppard and Holly Cohen, Penn Literacy Network, "Inclusive Literacy-Rich Experiences For Diverse Learners (Grades K-8)"
- Dr. Deborah Schussler, Villanova University, "School Care: What Is It and How Do We Foster It"
- Dr. Howard Stevenson and Dr. Duane Thomas, "Can We Talk? Developing Racial and Academic Stress Management and Negotiation Skills For Black Middle and High Schoolers"

14

**FALL CONFERENCE**  
**"Keeping Our Eye On The Dream"**

8:30-3:00

University City Sheraton Hotel



Keynote: *"Achieving Racial Equity And Excellence In Our Public Education Systems"*

Glenn Singleton, Executive Director

Pacific Educational Group

San Francisco, CA

Presenters:

- Joe Ginotti, Penn Literacy Network, Full Day Workshop, "Building High Level Student Engagement and Academic Performance in All Middle School and High School Classrooms"
- Glenn Singleton, Pacific Education Group, "A Continuing Dialog"
- Alan Bietler, Delores Bushong and Students, Arlington, VA, "Relationships Of Consequence: The Cohort, Unity Minority Girls and Steppin' Up Programs at Virginia's Wakefield High School"
- Kelly Pauling, Colonial IU 20, " A Framework and Rubric for School Improvement in Special Education"
- Andrea Trainer, Steve Tolliver and Parent Panel, Abington-Cheltenham-Wissahickon School Districts, "From The Parent Perspective: Developing Successful Parent-Community-School Partnerships"
- Michael-Joseph Mercanti-Anthony and Staff, Lindenwold School District, "The Lindenwold High School Seminar"
- Chuck Rittenhouse and Upper Dublin High School Student Leaders, "We May Not Be Who You Think We Are"

17

**FALL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

8:30-2:30

University City Sheraton Hotel

***"Power Up Your Future"***



Welcome: Dr. James Roebuck, PA House of Representatives, House Education Committee Chair

Keynote: *"Unlock the Power Within You"* Mawi Asgedom, Youth Educator and Author  
Chicago, IL

Presenters:

- Mawi Asgedom, Youth Educator and Author, "Mental Karate: The Most Important Thing About You Is The Way You Think"
- Dr. Crystal Lucky, Villanova University, "Ethnic Notions Of Mind: African American Stereotypes and Cultural Leadership"
- Christo Johnson, Educator and Author, "The Power Of The Spoken Word"
- Barry Broughton & Tyrone Edwards, Wissahickon School District Parent Leaders, "Team It"
- Dr. Barbara Moore Williams, Educational Consultant, "Habits For A Successful Journey Through The Teen Years"
- Rev. Dr. Alyn Waller, Pastor, "Nothing Is Impossible"
- Jaye Pedante and Springfield High School Student Leadership Team, "Lessons we Have Learned: Finding And Making Time For Success"

## DECEMBER

5

**FALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

8:30-2:30

University City Sheraton Hotel

***"Embrace Your Culture: Embrace Your Success"***



Keynote: *"I Will Determine My Own Greatness"* Salome Thomas-EL, Author, Principal, Russell Byers Charter School, Philadelphia, PA

Welcome: Dr. James Roebuck, PA House of Representatives, House Education Committee Chair

Presenters:

- Dr. Crystal Lucky, Villanova University, "Watching Yourself Being Watched: School Communities & The Challenge Of Ethnic Stereotypes"
- Honorable Renee Hughes, Judge, "Taking Life's Curveballs And Knocking Them Out Of The Park"
- Hector Lopez, Associate VP, National Hispanic Institute, "The Will & Desire To Succeed: A Personal Story Of The American Dream"
  
- Dr. Stephen Jones, Villanova University, "Seven Secrets Of How To Study: Mapping Your Strategy For Better Grades"
- Laura Reddick, Temple University & Dr. Doreen Loury, Arcadia University, "Thinking About & Getting Into Your College Of Choice Now"

11	<b>NJ MINORITY EDUCATOR NETWORKING EVENT</b>	5:30-7:30	Malberg Admin Bldg	Cherry Hill Public Schools
11 & 12	<b>CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP SEMINAR</b>	8:30-2:30	Conference Center	3440 Market

***"Effectively Addressing the Disproportionate Representation of Our Students of Color in Special Education-Part 2"***



Dr. Eddie Fergus, Director of Research and Evaluation and Project Director for the Technical Assistance Center on Disproportionality  
Metro Center for Urban Education  
Steinhardt School of Education  
New York University  
New York, NY

## JANUARY

13&15	<b>CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP SEMINAR</b>	8:30-2:30	Conference Center	3440 Market
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***"Culturally Proficient Leadership: The Personal Journey Begins Within"***



Dr. Ray Terrell, Assistant Dean for Research and Diversity  
Miami University of Ohio  
Oxford, OH



Dr. Randall Lindsey, Emeritus Professor  
California State University, Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, CA

22& 23 **SCHOOL COUNSELOR AND PRINCIPAL CLOSING THE GAP INSTITUTE** 8:30-3:00 Conference Center 3440 Market

***“Building Equitable Schools: Culturally Competent School Counselors as Leaders and Advocates”***



Pat Martin, Assistant Vice President  
National Office for School Counselor Advocacy  
The College Board  
Washington, DC



Dr. Vivian Lee, Higher Education School Counselor Specialist  
National Office for School Counselor Advocacy  
The College Board  
Washington, DC

## FEBRUARY

5 **NJ MINORITY EDUCATOR NETWORKING EVENT** 5:30-7:30 Malberg Admin Bldg Cherry Hill Public Schools

6 **SPRING MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE** 8:30-2:30 University City Sheraton Hotel

***“Power Up Your Future”***



Keynote: *“Unlock the Power Within You”* Mawi Asgedom, Youth Educator and Author, Chicago, IL

Facilitators:

- Mawi Asgedom, Youth Educator and Author, “Mental Karate: The Most Important Thing About You Is The Way You Think”
- Dr. Crystal Lucky, Villanova University, “Ethnic Notions Of Mind: African American Stereotypes and Cultural Leadership”
- Christo Johnson, Educator and Author, “The Power Of The Spoken Word”
- Andrea Lawful-Trainer and Robyn Tucker, “Code Switching Or Keeping It Real: A Conversation On Standard English Vs Ethnic Slang And How It May Affect You”
- Springfield High School Student Leadership Team, “Lessons We Have Learned: Finding And Making Time For Success”
- Lynne Partridge, Andrea Wilson-Harvey, Jason Fritz, Lower Merion School District “The Art And Science Of Teaching: Thinking About Teaching As A Career”

10& 11 **CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP SEMINAR** 8:30-2:30 Conf Center 3440 Market

***“Eight Powerful Factors For Engaging ALL Students In Their Own Learning”***



Dr. Paul Vermette, Professor of Education  
College of Education  
Niagara University, NY

16      **RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION TASK FORCE**      9-11:30      Room 502      3440 Market

## MARCH

7      **ANNUAL MINORITY EDUCATOR RECRUITMENT FAIR**      9:00-1:00      Conference Center      3440 Market

13      **SPRING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**      8:30-2:30      University City Sheraton Hotel

*“Embrace Your Culture: Embrace Your Success”*



Keynote: *“I Will Determine My Own Greatness”* Salome Thomas-EL, Author, Principal, Russell Byers Charter School, Philadelphia, PA

Facilitators:

- Marlon Smith and Flemuel Brown, “Real Men Talking”- Theater and Multimedia Production
- Dr. Crystal Lucky, Villanova University, “Watching Yourself Being Watched: School Communities & The Challenge Of Ethnic Stereotypes”
- Marlon Smith, Success By Choice, “Living and Leading With Purpose”
- Hector Lopez, National Hispanic Institute, “The Will & Desire To Succeed: A Personal Story Of The American Dream”
- Marshall Mitchell, Different Drummer Marketing, “Your Skills, Yourself, Your Future...”
- Salome Thomas-El, Author and Principal, “Follow The Leader”
- Andrea Lawful-Trainer and Robyn Tucker, “Code Switching Or Keeping It Real: A Conversation On Standard English Vs Ethnic Slang And How It May Affect You”
- Lynne Partridge, Andrea Wilson-Harvey, Jason Fritz, Lower Merion School District “The Art And Science Of Teaching: Thinking About Teaching As A Career”

16      **ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY SCHOOL DISTRICT VISITATION (REGISTER ONLY THROUGH DR. JARVIS)**

17      **FAMILY-COMMUNITY-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP TASK FORCE**      Noon-3:00      Room 502      3440 Market

24&25 **CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP SEMINAR**

8:30-2:30

Conf Center

3440 Market

*"Facilitating Authentic Community Collaboration That Empowers Families Of Our Diverse Students"*



Mr. Cortlandt Butts, Regional Director, Family and Community Empowerment  
Pacific Educational Group  
Minneapolis, MN

30 **RESEARCH AND DATA TASK FORCE**

9-11:30

Room 502

3440 Market

## APRIL

1 & 2 **CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP SEMINAR**

8:30-2:30

Conf Center

3440 Market

*"Intellectually Challenging Teaching in Multicultural Classrooms"*



Dr. Christine Sleeter, Professor Emerita, Teacher Education Department  
California State University- Monterey Bay  
Monterey, CA

8 **SUPERINTENDENTS STEERING COMMITTEE-  
ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION**

Noon-3:00

Room 500

3440 Market

21 **SCHOOL COUNSELOR TASK FORCE**

Noon-3:00

Room 502

3440 Market

# MAY

7 **CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP SEMINAR** 8:30-2:30 Conf Center 3440 Market

***“Multicultural Education: Creating Culturally Relevant and Equitable Learning Environments for ALL Students”***



Dr. Paul Gorski, Assistant Professor in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, George Mason University and President-Elect, National Association for Multicultural Education  
Fairfax, VA

14 **DVMSAC AND COLLEGE BOARD DISTRICT LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM** 8:30-2:30 University City Sheraton Hotel  
***“Closing The Achievement Gaps: A Continuing School District Leadership Imperative”***

(REGISTER THROUGH THE COLLEGE BOARD)

## **KEYNOTES**

***“Racial Politics And The Elusive Quest For Excellence And Equity In Education”***



Dr. Pedro Noguera, Professor of Teaching And Learning, School of Culture, Education, and Human Development  
Executive Director, Metropolitan Center for Urban Education  
Steinhart School of Education New York University  
New York, NY

***“The Critical Role of District Superintendent Leadership in Closing the Achievement Gaps”***



Dr. Deborah Jewell-Sherman, Senior Lecturer and Recent Superintendent in Richmond, VA Public Schools and VA Superintendent of the Year  
Graduate School of Education Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

***“A Continuing Dialog With Pedro Noguera”***

Dr. Pedro Noguera, New York University

***“Regional School District Collaboration for Promoting Equity and Closing the Gaps”***

Dr. Robert L. Jarvis, Director, DVMSAC, University of Pennsylvania  
Dr. Roseann Nyiri, Superintendent, Springfield Township School District  
Dr. Christopher McGinley, Superintendent, Lower Merion School District

***“Leadership Lessons From Urban And Suburban Superintendents Who Are Walking The Equity Walk”***

Dr. William Johnson, Superintendent, Rockville Centre NY Schools  
Dr. Judith Johnson, Superintendent, Peekskill City NY Schools

***“Creating A College-Going Culture For Minority Students In Our Secondary Schools”***

Dr. Shelly Schneider, Superintendent, Millville NJ Public School District  
Beth Davis, Literacy Coach, Lakeside Middle School  
With Identified District Teachers and Students

***“All That Is Known: Combating 21<sup>st</sup> Century Issues”***

Connie Leech  
Rochester City School District  
Rochester, NY

**2008-09**  
**Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium**  
**Member School Districts and Affiliate Member County Intermediate Units**

**Abington School District**

Amy Sichel, Superintendent  
Abington, PA

**Bristol Township School District**

Ellen Budman, Superintendent  
Levittown, PA

**Cherry Hill Public Schools**

David Campbell, Superintendent  
Cherry Hill, NJ

**Kennett Consolidated School District**

Rudy Karkosak, Superintendent  
Kennett Square, PA

**Lower Merion School District**

Christopher McGinley, Superintendent  
Ardmore, PA

**Morrisville Borough School District**

Elizabeth Yonson, Superintendent  
Morrisville, PA

**Perkiomen Valley School District**

Cliff Rogers, Superintendent  
Collegeville, PA

**Springfield School District**

James Capalupo, Superintendent  
Springfield, PA

**Upper Merion School District**

Melissa Jamula, Superintendent  
King of Prussia, PA

**West Windsor-Plainsboro School District**

Victoria Kniewel, Superintendent  
Princeton Junction, NJ

**Bensalem Township School District**

James Lombardo, Superintendent  
Bensalem, PA

**Centennial School District**

Sandy Homel, Acting Superintendent  
Warminster, PA

**Collingswood School District**

Scott Oswald, Superintendent  
Collingswood, NJ

**Lindenwold Public Schools**

Geraldine Carroll, Superintendent  
Lindenwold, NJ

**Methacton School District**

Tim Quinn, Superintendent  
Eagleville, PA

**Norristown Area School District**

Janet Samuels, Superintendent  
Norristown, PA

**Princeton Regional Schools**

Judith Wilson, Superintendent  
Princeton, NJ

**Springfield Township School District**

Roseann Nyiri, Superintendent  
Oreland, PA

**Wissahickon School District**

Judith Clark, Superintendent  
Ambler, PA

**Brandywine School District**

James Scanlon, Superintendent  
Claymont, DE

**Cheltenham Township School District**

William Kiefer, Superintendent  
Elkins Park, PA

**Hatboro-Horsham School District**

William Lessa, Superintendent  
Horsham, PA

**Lenape Regional School District**

Emily Capella, Superintendent  
Shamong, NJ

**Moorestown Township Public Schools**

John Bach, Superintendent  
Moorestown, NJ

**North Penn School District**

Robert Hassler, Superintendent  
Lansdale, PA

**Rose Tree Media School District**

Denise Kerr, Superintendent  
Media, PA

**Upper Dublin School District**

Michael Pladus, Superintendent  
Maple Glen, PA

**West Chester Area School District**

Linda Antonowich, Interim Superintendent  
West Chester, PA

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**Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22**

Barry Gallaso, Executive Director  
Doylestown, PA

**Chester County Intermediate Unit # 24**

Joe O'Brien, Executive Director  
Downingtown, PA

**Delaware County Intermediate Unit #25**

Lawrence O'Shea, Executive Director  
Morton, PA